

# **SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **for**

## **York, Maine**

The Town of York submits the following information as required by DMR Regulations Chapter 7.20, which states that the Shellfish Management Plan shall consist of:

- A. A written statement of goals and objectives the municipality plans to achieve as a result of its conservation program.
- B. A description of the various conservation measures the municipality intends to employ to reach those goals.

### **Statement of Management Goals and Objectives**

It is the goal of York's Shellfish Management Plan to maximize the opportunity for individual recreational harvest by limiting licenses for the harvesting of softshell clams and quahogs. We will conduct enhancement activities like seeding, mud flat cleanups and shellfish surveys to increase softshell clam and quahog resources and will use both date and area closures to maintain a healthy population that can support recreational shellfish harvesting in the future.

### **Description of Conservation Measures**

- We will maximize recreational opportunities by limiting licenses and harvest days and times to protect the shellfish population from overharvesting. With this we should see harvest and population numbers stay the same year after year.
- We will identify areas where the population of shellfish differs and may benefit from different management, whether its cleaner water that is needed or other issues. We will look at past years' changes and how they affected the harvest and population of shellfish.
- Recommendations for license numbers will be based on observations made by the Shellfish warden, the Shellfish committee members and license holders throughout the season. Information will be collected by the Shellfish Warden and Committee members and discussed at shellfish committee meetings. We will use this information over the years to look at trends and better predict what might need to change with the flats management in years to come.
- The shellfish Committee will look at conducting Shellfish population surveys in the future to better understand population density and age class of the current population of not only the regulated species but the species that the Shellfish Ordinance does not regulate to determine if changes need to be made and to see if other species need to be added to the ordinance to better manage those species for long term health of the populations.
- We will be enhancing water quality by conducting a flats cleanup in the fall or early winter of 2024. We will also be assessing the need and viability of seeding clam flats in the town flats